

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 8 NO. 3

APRIL 2005

SPECIAL STATE SENATE ELECTION

VOTE

THIS TUESDAY APRIL 5

BETWEEN JENNIFER MANN AND PAT BROWNE

EXPERTS SAY THE GLBTA VOTE COULD SWING THIS ELECTION



PA-GALA ENDORSES JENNIFER MANN

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) has endorsed State Representative Jennifer Mann for State Senator in the Special Election (April 5). According to press release by PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black, and the PA-GALA Board, "Jennifer Mann supports the GLBT Civil Rights Bill and aggressively opposed the anti-GLBT Birmelin Amendments. Jennifer Mann has a 91% Lifetime PA-GALA Rating, while her opponent State Representative Pat Browne only has a 53% Lifetime PA-GALA Rating (and) most importantly, Jennifer Mann has promised to oppose a Pennsylvania Constitutional Amendment that would prohibit same-sex marriage in the Commonwealth."

PRIDE ANNOUNCES CHANGES & GEARS UP FOR FESTIVAL

PRIDE BOARD CHANGES -- Amy Karp has joined the board as Logistics Manager for Pride in the Park. Pride Vice President and Creative Director, Brad Wentz has taken on the role as Pride in the Park Chair. The organization will resume the former chair's plans for the June Festival and sends their best to resigning board members Keith Weaver and Jim Lipsky.

The 2005 Pride in the Park committee needs your assistance to make this parade and festival a huge success -- over 100 volunteers are needed on the event day and several more are needed in the planning process! Entertainment and parade details will be announced in the May issue of VGP. The next PITP meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 7pm at Panera Bread, in Allentown. For important dates and for volunteer information see page 5.

HAVEN YOUTH PROM

HAVEN presents 2005 PRIZM PROM -- For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and Allied Youth in the Greater Lehigh Valley. Sunday, May 22, 7-11 pm at the Radisson Hotel in Bethlehem. The chaperoned event is open to youth between the ages of 14-20. The event will be alcohol & smoke free. Formal attire is strongly recommended, but not required. Prom Court will be crowned at 10 pm. Tickets: \$25.00 per person until April 30 (\$30.00 after). Purchase tickets at HAVEN's Weekly Wednesday 7 pm meetings at UUCLV. HAVEN thanks American Hairlines & GLOW at PPL for their generous contributions and seeks additional sponsors & advertisers. For tickets, details on local retail discounts, to donate, to advertise, or for any other info, contact HAVEN (www.prizmprom.com, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com, phone 610.868.2153).

PDN WEBSITE HAS MEDICAL REFERRALS & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PA-Diversity Network (PDN) is currently working on a referral list of Medical Professionals and other professionals and businesses that are GLBT friendly and knowledgeable about the concerns and issues of our community. To view or add to the current list, log on to www.padiversity.org.

The PA Diversity Network website now sports a community calendar of events. To list your organization's event on the calendar or to find information about events, go to www.padiversity.org and follow the directions on the home page. See more about the work PDN is doing on page 6.

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
6PM - 9PM**

VALLEY GAY PRESS

WEB SITE: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Allentown, 610.967.5219 <http://www.eastern-pflag.org/>

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater-- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)

-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St.

Monthly Direct Mail Distribution

Currently the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) mails the Valley Gay Press to its members. To become a member of PA-GALA, send \$25 for an individual membership or \$35 for a family membership to: PA-GALA PO Box 20825 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

To contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449

Email: litzrish@aol.com To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP Some restrictions apply

THE HUBBUB OF SOCIAL SECURITY

On national television I am being told by George W. "If you were born before 1950 or currently getting a check, nothing will change." Therefore, individuals born before 1950 should have no fear. George W. has it under control. Sunday, February 27 on 'Face The Nation' they told me that by the end of 2005, there would be a 50/50 chance that there will be any reform solution. Precise details are a long way off. We can worry all we want, but at this point there are only proposals. Mass journalism, which is America's leading retailer of any economic/financial issue, has declared war on any reform of the Social Security system that involves private investment accounts. First, the system is not currently in crisis, however, by 2042 the Social Security trust fund will decrease to zero, unless changes are made.

What may pass for younger workers is the "choice" to participate in investing a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes in private accounts. This portion of the account will include an opportunity to identify a beneficiary for liquidation upon your death. For non-married individuals, this would be an advantage, as well as, an ability to control a portion of your future assets.

Financial options may include multi asset class funds that tailor the investment mix to the participant's age and circumstances. Investors who are not particularly savvy in investing may choose "Lifestyle" or "Target" funds that adjust their mix of stocks and bonds gradually to become more conservative as we age. These could very well be passively managed funds with low operating expenses of .3% per year. Another proposal is to raise the cap on incomes contributing to the Social Security system. This option will allow more money into the government system today, but will not solve the future problem. If they raise the Social Security tax rate from 12.4 percent of wages to 15.9 percent immediately, the whole problem goes away. Do you want the government managing more of your money? The present system guarantees nothing but its own insolvency. Change is needed, however out of our control. What we can control, is taking stock in our own personal futures. Begin today by reducing your reliance on government control and creating your own financial future.

Unless the US government is willing to offer some education to the American public, there will continue to be anxiety over managing their future. The Social Security reform naysayers equate investing with gambling, and believe more in government than in Americans. Any system which encourages work, thrift and personal responsibility is preferred to reliance on any government annuity system which the individual doesn't own, and whose equity dies with them.

Denise McKelvey. CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editor Liz Bradbury with
questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA, On the VGP calendar page, you mention Valley Youth House as offering a group for emotionally troubled GLBT youth. Can you tell me about that? **Signed, Having Issues**
Dear Having Issues, In the last few months, PA-Diversity's Infoline Committee has been trying to bring all resources and references up to date. Committee Chair Robert Roush sent a form seeking the latest information to every group PDN lists on its website (www.padiversity.org), and on VGP's calendar page.

Unfortunately, the form to Valley Youth House's GLBT youth group came back from VYH with a handwritten note on it saying, "NO LONGER IN-SERVICE -- PLEASE DELETE." There was no other information. Since all other agencies returning information included more extensive responses, Robert made a further effort to reach VYH.

David Gilgoff, the Executive Director of Valley Youth House, returned an email to PA Diversity Network saying that, "Due to lack of interest we are no longer offering the GLBT group." He added that "If there is a service falling within the scope of our mission and practice that would be helpful for GLBT youth we would be glad to consider it."

Although VYH offers general services for troubled youth, Valley Youth House does not offer any GLBT youth services. Though, according to Mr. Gilgoff, "GLBT youth are always welcome for services at Valley Youth House." As per the request of the agency, Valley Youth House has been deleted from VGP's Calendar Page and the PDN Resource List.

But, that doesn't mean that there is no support for you. If you are looking for a generally supportive group for GLBT Youth, try Haven (see page 3 for details). Some of the local High Schools also have GSAs. If you need help with emotional problems, try calling the GLBT Infoline (M-F 6pm to 9pm) for a referral to a program or counselor that could help you.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153. HAVEN needs facilitators & volunteers for meetings and the Prizm Prom. Facilitator training provided.

PFLAG TIMES

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Meeting Dates: Allentown: April 5, May 3, June 7 Monroe: April 6, May 4, June 1 Reading: April 19, May 17, No meeting in June

STEVIE Z

Stevie Z will be appearing at the Allentown Stonewall/MooseLounge from 9PM-Midnight on the following dates in April and May: Friday, April 8, Sat, April 23, Fri, May 13 and Sat, May 28. One half of all tips received will go to PRIDE of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Come on out and have some FUN by the grand piano.

AA MEETINGS

G.A.Y. Alcoholics Anonymous at MCCLV (1901 S. 12th St. & Vultee MERCHANTS MALL in ALLENTOWN) is an "open" AA GLBT Specialty Meeting. WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:30PM-8:30PM.

FACT CONCERT

FACT, Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, Presents: An Afternoon of Music. Allen Organ Hosts AIDS Benefit, Featuring 2 Concert Organists, Adam P. Koch & Scott Clark. Sunday, April 3, 3:00 pm at Allen Organ Sales Headquarters Octave Hall, Route 100 Macungie, PA (across from Giant shopping Center). Tickets \$ 10.00 Available at door or call Ron Meyers 484-239-7431. All Proceeds Benefit FACT

GSA EVENT CANCELED

The April 22 Liberty HS GSA talent show has been cancelled.

GLBT CIVIL RIGHTS ANNIVERSARY

Robert Gant, an out cast member of Queer as Folk, has been named Master of Ceremonies for the Gay Pioneers & 40 Heroes Tribute in Philly, at the National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement. The Tribute is on Sunday, May 1 in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Governor Ed Rendell is scheduled to unveil a commemorative marker.

BERKS GRANT

The Diversity Alliance Fund of Berks County Community Foundation, which seeks to address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in the community, has raised close to \$40,000 toward its \$100,000 goal, according to Thomas J. Moore, director of philanthropic services at the Community Foundation.

"The Diversity Alliance Fund was established a year ago in response to the National Lesbian & Gay Community Funding Partnership, which offered a matching grant of \$100,000 to increase community awareness and funding for the non-HIV/AIDS needs of the LGBT community in Berks County," Moore said. "To date we've raised close to \$40,000 toward that goal."

The foundation aims to support GLBT youth and the general GLBT community through programming and training.

LVGMC CONCERT

On June 4, the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will present its 10th anniversary concert at 8pm at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Bethlehem. Highlights include appearances by the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, guest conducts and a post concert reception. Individual and Group ticket sales information is available by contacting the chorus by phone at 610-366-3320 or via e-mail at info@lvgmc.org. Visit the chorus web site at www.lvgmc.org.

GLOSS EVENTS

GLOSS has the following events scheduled for April. Game Night: Apr 16, Pinochle: Apr 2, Bowling: Apr 8. For more information about these activities, contact GLOSS by phone: 610-434-2966, email: info@gloss.org, or web: www.gloss.org

INTERWEAVE EVENTS

Interweave of UUCLV to hold a multi-sta Interweave to host 1-day Retreat on Saturday, May 7 beginning at 9 am & concluding with a drum circle at 6 pm. Workshops are open to the public & will focus on topics relevant to the GLBTIA community &/or spirituality. Registration is \$35.00 (sliding scale) & will include breakfast & lunch. Guest Speakers are still being confirmed. Volunteers are still being sought. However one of the presentations will be: "Legal Papers You Need to Protect Yourself and Your Same-Sex Partner," by speakers Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan of the PA Diversity Network.

Other Interweave news: Movie Nights are going on hiatus. Look for their return in the fall. "The Queer Alphabet" Breakfast Forum was canceled due to snow & will be rescheduled in September. Look for more details soon. Local Interweave Co-Chair, Allyson Diane Hamm was recently nominated & elected to the National Interweave Board. Interweave is the GLBTAIQ group at UUCLV. Meetings are at noon, every 3rd Sunday. For contact info, see Interweave &/or UUCLV in the center spread.

MUHLBERG THEATER

Muhlenberg Theatre Association presents Lures and Snares April 1- 10, 2005 in the Studio TheatreTrexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance, Muhlenberg College. Information & Tickets 484-664-3333. Web www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/baker The Muhlenberg Theatre Association stage production of LURES AND SNARES is an original musical adaptation of several stories introduced by American melodramas at the turn of the last century. Lures and Snares is about the dreams and values of America * both then and now. Drawing upon Dion Boucicault's masterpiece The Poor of New York and Augustin Daly's Under The Gaslight, director Dr. Beth Schachter and co-writer Troy Dwyer have adapted and rewritten these texts in collaboration with composer Mike Krisukas (Zen for Primates) to create the new musical, Lures and Snares. This adventurous musical challenges audiences to ask "what if" those simple dualities of good and evil are complicated by contemporary psychological and economic realities. Performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

CALENDAR 4

AA --AA meetings on Wednesdays at MCCLV, Begin at 7:30pm
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>
CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.
Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gathering various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541, email-GLORA2004@aol.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.
GLOW-at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly, 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com. www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mccclevh valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mccclv.org 610-709-8800
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.
PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pagala.org
PARENTS-GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

APRIL 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Muhlenberg Theater	2 Pride Ben	GLOSS WDIY
3 MCC FACT Ben	4 LVGMC RAA	5 Special Election LV PFLAG	6 HAVEN AA M PFLAG	7 GLOSS RAA	8 Stevie Z Bowling	9 MCC Garage Sale Am Haskalah Workshop
10 Pride Ben	11 LVGMC MTG	12 GLOSS Pride Ben	13 HAVEN AA Pride MTG	14 RAA GLOSS	15	16 WDIY GLOSS Game Night
17 UUCLV MCC Training	18 RAA LVGMC	19 GLOSS PFLAG R	20 HAVEN AA Pride MTG	21 RAA GLOSS	22 MCC Games GLOSS Pin.	23 Stevie Z WDIY GLOSS
24 MCC Pride Ben	25 LVGMC RAA	26	27 HAVEN AA	28 RAA GLOSS Pride MTG	29	30 WDIY GLOSS MCC Dance Potluck

MAY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 40th Anniv	2 RAA LVGMC	3 GLOSS LV PFLAG	4 M PFLAG HAVEN	5 GLOSS RAA	6 MCC Games	7 WDIY GLOSS Interweave Retreat
8 MCC	9 LVGMC RAA	10 GLOSS	11 HAVEN AA	12 GLOSS RAA	13 Stevie Z	14 WDIY GLOSS
15 MCC WDIY HMFF	16 RAA LVGMC	17 GLOSS PFLAG R	18 HAVEN AA	19 RAA GLOSS	20	21 WDIY GLOSS GLOSS GAMES
22 Prizm Prom	23 RAA LVGMC	24 GLOSS	25 HAVEN AA	26 RAA GLOSS	27	28 WDIY GLOSS Stevie Z
29 HMFF UUCLV MCC	30 LVGMC RAA	31 GLOSS				

JUNE 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 M PFLAG HAVEN	2	3	4 LVGMC Concert GLOSS WDIY
5 WDIY UUCLV HMFF	6 LVGMC RAA	7 GLOSS LV PFLAG	8 HAVEN AA	9 GLOSS RAA	10	11 WDIY GLOSS
12 HMFF WDIY MCC	13 LVGMC RAA	14 GLOSS	15 HAVEN AA	16 RAA GLOSS	17	18 GLOSS WDIY
19 PRIDE FESTIVAL	20 LVGMC RAA	21 GLOSS	22 HAVEN AA	23 RAA GLOSS	24	25 GLOSS WDIY
26 WDIY GLOSS UUCLV CUUPS HMFF	27 LVGMC RAA	28 GLOSS	29 HAVEN AA	30 RAA GLOSS		

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Quakers - Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting - Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA - Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.
Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219
Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Saint John's Lutheran Church - A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball (Women's) call Diamondz, 610.865.1028
Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447
T.O. - Theatre Outlet - Allentown, 610-820-9270.
Unity - 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padviversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA - Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST WEDS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUESDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRIDAYS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - MONDAYS
MCC GAME NIGHTS - 1ST & 3RD SATS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS

APR 1-10 - MUHLENBERG THEATER
APR 2 - GLOSS PINOCHLE
APR 2 - PRINCESS OF PRIDE
APR 3 - FACT BENEFIT
APR 5 - SPECIAL ELECTION FOR STATE SENATOR
APR 5 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG
APR 6 - MONROE PFLAG
APR 8 - GLOSS BOWLING
APR 8 - STEVIEZ
APR 8 - RABBI KLEIN
APR 9 - AM HASKALAH WKSP
APR 9 - MCCLV GARAGE SALE
APR 10 - PRIDE FLAG FOOTBALL
APR 11 - PRIDE BOARD MTG
APR 12 - PRINCE OF PRIDE EVENT
APR 13 - PRIDE FUND. MTG
APR 16 - GLOSS GAME NIGHT
APR 17 - MCCLV TRAINING
APR 19 - READING PFLAG
APR 20 - PRIDE MEETING
APR 23 - STEVIEZ
APR 24 - PRIDE @ DIAMONZ
APR 28 - SCHOLARSHIP MTG
APR 30 - MCCLV POTLUCK
APR 30 - MCCLV DANCE
MAY 1 - 40TH GLBT ANNIV
MAY 3 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG
MAY 4 - MONROE PFLAG
MAY 7 - INTERWEAVE RETREAT
MAY 13 - STEVIEZ
MAY 17 - READING PFLAG
MAY 22 - HAVEN PROM
MAY 28 - STEVIEZ
JUNE 4 - LVGMC CONCERT
JUNE 19 - PRIDE IN THE PARK

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

GREATER LV PRIDE EVENTS & INFORMATION

PRIDE EVENTS:

See Pride events calendar at www.prideglv.org for details. Sat., April 2 - Princess of Pride, Vanessa Mayheim at Lafayette University. Tuesday, April 12, - Prince of Pride, Skylar, at Lehigh University. Sunday, April 24, "Butches to Babes and Babes to Butches" 10pm, 21+. Apollo will host this benefit at Diamondz in May (tba): Flag football w/Apollo, details tba, no experience needed, to play or cheer contact volunteers@prideglv.org

PRIDE MEETINGS:

Board - Monday, April 11, 7pm at Panera Bread, Tilghman & Cedar Crest, Allentown, for info contact krstifik@prideglv.org. **Fundraising** - Wednesday, April 13, 7pm at Panera Bread, for info contact volunteers@prideglv.org. **Pride in the Park** - Wednesday, April 20, 7pm at Panera Bread, Tilghman & Cedar Crest, Allentown, for info contact bwentz@prideglv.org. **Rainbow Scholarship** - Thursday, April 28, 7pm at Panera Bread, for info contact rainbowscholarship@prideglv.org. **Film** - committee will preview films in May and summer. If interested contact filmfest@prideglv.org.

For more information on Pride committees or volunteering, please contact volunteers@prideglv.org. Mark your calendars for these important dates. (See full information in the May VGP.)

April 15 - vendor packets mailed

May 10 - advertisements due

May 30 - vendor registrations due

June 1 - parade registrations due

June 19 - parade at noon, festival noon-7pm, Cedar Beach Park in Allentown

The next PTP meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 7pm at Panera Bread. Please attend. Festival Contacts: Vendors: vendor@prideglv.org, Parade: parade@prideglv.org, Prideguide: prideguide@prideglv.org, Volunteers: volunteers@prideglv.org

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Dear Diary, As you know, I recently enjoyed my eighth month of sobriety. Liz and Trish asked me to write about my experience. It was mid July '04 when I put down the Skyy Blues and Camel Lights (Colin Farrell's favorite brand. What do you mean obsessed?) And, I haven't looked back. Well, perhaps the occasional glance in the rearview to compare where I am now to where I was then.

99.999% of the time I don't miss it. You have no idea how much time is taken up by drinking, recovering from said drinking and then planning to drink all over again. "Let's go out for a few drinks to plan where we are going to go out for a few drinks this weekend." Clever! It takes a lot of energy to be that dysfunctional.

For those of you who have seen Avenue Q, while drinking, my constant companions were The Bad Ideas Bears. For those of you who have not seen Avenue Q, go see it, as soon as you're done reading this article. I was a celebratory drinker. I liked to party. I rarely, if ever, drank alone. The usual suspects were birthdays, holidays and special occasions, like Thursdays. Now who can I blame for this addiction? Who to blame? Who to blame?

Ah, my mother. The one responsible for the bulk of my psychological upheaval. Just kidding. My mother was a true angel. An angel with a drinking problem that she inherited from her mother and so on. My mother could drink most lobstermen under the table. I'm from Maine. For the PA translation replace lobstermen with coalminers. Pretty impressive now, huh? Drinking and smoking (more on that later- I said more-on) were glorified not only in my family but throughout late 60's and 70's culture (or so I've heard). Samantha Stevens (Bewitched) always met Darrin at the door with his martini. Most TV and movie characters turned to the bottle to celebrate, drown their sorrows or relieve stress. That may explain my affection for old game shows like Match Game where the B-list celebs were allowed to drink and smoke while taping the show. They would tape a week's worth in one day. That explains why Charles Nelson Reilly and Brett Somers always seemed half crooked on Friday's show. They WERE half crooked.

If you're still reading, this column is not meant to lecture (they don't pay me enough), or to judge (God gets paid for that). I am not calling anyone out (you know who you are) and I am not bitter (everyone can just screw off because I can't drink). This is merely a cautionary tale about someone who was tired of hangovers, smelling like alcohol and the wasting of too many beautiful days. It is also meant to empower others who feel they have a problem, to stop.

The only thing I'm going to say about cigarette use is most people don't look as cool as Colin Farrell (again, this is not an obsession) or Angelina Jolie when they smoke. It is killing you and others. So do yourself a favor and speed up the process. Light up while walking in front of a bus. And again, I am NOT bitter.

What I am is grateful, to so many of my friends and family who have been so very supportive. I used to drink with them all. We still go out. They still drink. I don't. We still have fun. I love them dearly. And have possibly extended my time with them by not giving in to my addictions. Except chocolate. Good luck with your addictions. Keep the ones that won't kill you. Smooches, Steve

You Get a Free Dessert with that Baby

The old images of politicians kissing babies aren't far off from reality. Everyone loves babies. Whenever we go out anywhere, quite a few strangers come up and say hi to our son. They strike up some small talk, saying things like, "He's so beautiful," or "He has your eyes," or "His mother must be so proud," or "Which one of you is his father?" Lucas loves the attention and we don't mind it either. We are very proud of our son and very proud of our roles as dual dads. We are extra proud to be gay parents and thus we answer all questions honestly, when we choose to answer them at all.

Answering the "Which one of you is his father.?" question has become quite interesting for us. We answer the question honestly. We always imagine it's obvious we both have important roles in our baby's life by our interaction with him, and what those roles are should be quite obvious by our interactions with each other. But let's face it, there aren't so many out gay male parents around, so not everybody immediately gets it. So, they ask us. And we tell them. And then...they congratulate us. It's always like that, no one faints, no one chokes, and no one has a stroke. Somehow it's anti-climactic but still very nice.

Some of our pleasantly memorable moments after we "out" ourselves as gay male parents occur in restaurants. At a local Italian restaurant our hostess continually wished us luck with our son. When Lucas was a few months old, the waitresses at TGI Fridays all took turns holding him so we could eat our dinner as they proceeded to share with us all sorts of advice and experience. At Bennigans we were each given dessert on the house as congratulations from the manager on being parents.

It pays to be honest. We can be proud, our son will be proud, and the world gets to see who we are. But most importantly we may get to enjoy another White Chocolate Oreo Cream Triple Layer ultra decadent dessert again...for free.

GLOSS YAHOO GROUPS

GLOSS (The Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society) offers many activities for people with different interests. GLOSS has set up Yahoo! Groups for each of these activities. If you want to find and get together with others who share your interests join one of these special interest groups. Pick as many as you like from the list below. Group Name-Focus: gloss-bowling Bowling, gloss-bridge Bridge, gloss-dance Ballroom or partner dancing (swing, country, Latin), gloss-outdoors Hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing and almost anything outdoors, gloss-paintball Paintball, gloss-pinochle Pinochle, gloss-rball Racquetball, gloss-ski Skiing, snowboarding and other winter sports, gloss-sports Discussion group for sports, whether you're a spectator or an active participant, gloss-tennis Tennis, gloss-vball Volleyball, OutinLV Discussion group for LV GLBT community. Find out what's going on. Organize your own event(s). GayAutoRacers Motor sports.

To join a specific group send an empty email message to xxx subscribe@yahooogroups.com, where xxx is the name of the group (from the left column above). For example, if you would like to join the outdoors group, send a message to gloss-outdoors-subscribe@yahooogroups.com. Don't worry about spam or your email address being compromised. Yahoo! Groups are very safe. If you have questions, or if your activity/interest is not listed drop an email to fabio@early.com

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



While regular columnist Scott Laubner works on a hot spring fever column for May, he welcomes this month's guest columnist. Recently, former PA Diversity GLBT Infoline Chair, Robert Roush took a job at Geisinger Medical System, headquartered in Danville PA. This is an occasional series on "Gay Life in the Backwoods."

...Being here in Danville is pretty depressing GLBT-wise. Of course I'm totally out at my office with my partner's pictures on my desk, and I talk about doing "this and that" with my partner Steve. Some people get it, others are a bit confused, but they'll all get it before too long. There are just no "out" people around! I met one guy who works on the hospital campus. He was so closeted, he kept referring to his gayness as his "private life" and no one had any business looking at his "private life." Finally I exploded and said- "Look, I interviewed with about 16 different people, and while chatting EVERY ONE OF THEM mentioned their husband or wife. How is it that it's our private life, but it's not private for straight people!?" Needless to say, he had no answer, and needless to say, he's not going to work out as my first gay friend here.

Sigh. I really did try to listen and understand this guy. He was divorced and had 2 children- two boys that he has full-custody of. He was telling me that he mostly can't meet anyone, and that he has had to stay in Danville for the last 18 years to raise his boys. He wanted to go to school to pursue his dream to be (sorry for the following stereotype, but hey, we ARE good at it) an interior designer. I thought, "Hey, how admirable." And felt horrible for getting so upset.

Later on, I realized that his remaining closeted really didn't help his sons grow. He had decided to keep his true self from his sons. He had decided he could never have a partner, depriving his sons of the richness that another soul brings to a relationship- and to a family. If he had made the decision early on to pursue his education and move to Philadelphia, he would have broadened his sons' experiences.

In the end, I wondered and still fret over the injustice and the disservice that remaining closeted brings to everyone. If no one knows you're gay, how can that show people we are decent hard working, fun, intelligent, wonderful people? And, how can we expect to be treated equally? **From the Sticks, Robert**
PS: Robert is still on the Infoline Committee & PDN Board. (ed.)

PA-DIVERSITY UPDATES

PDN volunteers Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan attended a special training of trainers presented by GLSEN in New York, in March. The workshop focused on training people to effectively deal with GLBT youth issues and concerns. PA Diversity Network will be offering training for professionals who need to know more about dealing with GLBT youth, later this year.

The Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT Infoline, which is part of PDN, continues to offer a phone line to trained volunteers, Monday through Friday, 6pm to 9pm. Hours will be expanding by the end of the month. Those interested in training as Infoline phone answerers may contact the Infoline Committee through the PA Diversity Network web site or by calling 610-4342-5449 or emailing liztrish@aol.com. The next training will be in May and will be conducted by Sarah Kersh of the Crime Victims Council.

Valley Gay Press, which is also part of PDN, is read by nearly 2000 GLBTA people a month. VGP seeks a volunteer to help post VGP web site information. Contact PDN to volunteer.



LIZ OUT LOUD 7 JUST DO IT *By Liz Bradbury*

What if you were Terry Schiavo? Would you want to live that way? For this moment, don't think about it as though it was anyone other than yourself. That's what it's really about, would you want to be kept alive by a feeding tube pushed down your throat, when you had no brain function at all and would never recover?

If you are like most people in this country, you're saying, "No, I wouldn't want to be kept alive like that. I wouldn't want to be an emotional or financial burden on my family. I wouldn't want to spend 15 years in a hospital bed, in a vegetative state doing nothing more than breathing." Are you thinking that? Well, what are you doing about it?

Terry Schiavo never made a living will to make her wishes known. Do you have a Living Will? Do you have the legal papers to ensure nobody keeps you alive for 15 years in a hospital bed on a machine if you are, say, severely injured in a car accident? Terry Schiavo had a heart attack. She was young when it happened, 38 years old. She probably thought this could never happen to her, so she didn't plan ahead.

Gay men and lesbians are even more at risk than someone like Terry Schiavo, who could be legally married. We can't be sure that our closest loved ones, our same-sex partners, will be able to make medical decisions for us unless we have arranged medical powers of attorneys. If you don't have one, then if anything happens to you, the decisions will be made by your parents. If your parents aren't alive, then decisions about your future life, death, and finances will be made by your brothers and sisters. Even if you haven't spoken to your brothers and sisters for years, they will be the ones to make the legal decisions about you. Each will have an equal voice in your care. How do you feel about that? It's the law, unless you have the right legal papers.

You need a "Living Will," that outlines your medical and end-of-life wishes to be sure that your directions are followed. You need a will to be sure your assets are fairly divided among the people you love. You need a "Power of Attorney" to be sure your finances are taken care of by the right people, and you need a "Medical Power of Attorney" to be sure the right decisions about your medical care are made by the right people. If you have kids, you need legal parenting agreements. Get these papers. If you need a pro-GLBT lawyer referral call the GLBT Infoline M-F 6 to 9pm at 610-HELP-123 (610-435-7123).

PA Diversity Network will be presenting at the Unitarian Universalist Interweave Conference on May 7. The topic of the presentation will be "Legal Papers You Need to Protect Yourself and Your Same-Sex Partner." I will be doing the presentation with Patricia Sullivan. To attend that presentation, contact Allyson Hamm at UUCLV's Interweave. If your organization would like to host a presentation on the topic of legal steps same-sex partners should take, please contact me at Pennsylvania Diversity Network for more information at: 610-432-5449, liztrish@aol.com or info@padiversity.org

AM HASKALAH CELEBRATES RITUAL INSTALLATION OF RABBI MELISSA KLEIN

Congregation Am Haskalah of Allentown is pleased to have an installation ceremony for its rabbi, Rabbi Melissa Klein on April 8 and 9. Rabbi Klein is the first woman to be a pulpit rabbi in the Lehigh Valley and has participated in the Freedom to Marry celebrations at MCCLV the past few years. The formal installation will begin at 7pm Friday, April 8 at the Jewish Community Center in Allentown, followed by Saturday morning services and a workshop Saturday afternoon called "Visions of Holiness and Justice," with guest speaker, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer leading an interfaith discussion on the community's ideas of studying how different religious traditions parallel and contrast each other relating to social justice and sanctity. The public is invited to attend both events. Please call Jenni Levy, 610-821-1114 for more information.

TRISH'S COLUMN WHO'S JTROS? *By Patricia Sullivan*



ERA Real Estate sent us a card to thank us for doing business with them. It was addressed to "Elizabeth Bradbury and Patrick Sullivan" (sic). I called and spoke with a representative at the "home office" in New Jersey. A pleasant and seemingly knowledgeable woman told me that the card was generated by the Florida sales office from which we had purchased a small investment property. She apologized for the mistake and felt that it was probably just a data base entry error. We talked for some time about this mistake and the possible unintended consequences. In the final analysis I believe it was just an entry error.

While it may seem that I acted like the somewhat paranoid 60's personality that I am, seeing my name listed on the mailing this way made me stop and ask some important questions. I immediately reviewed our purchase agreements and our deed to make sure everything was in order. The sales associate we worked with was great, but there were some aspects of the sale that required our personal scrutiny, not just because it made good business sense, but because we could not be at the closing and because we are a lesbian couple.

Our sales associate had told the agency's attorney that we wanted the property deed to list us as "Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship (JTROS)." However, when I was faxed a draft deed we were designated as "Tenants in Common." The attorney decided to list us as "Tenants in Common" despite our sales associate's directions otherwise. When I called to ask that it be changed to "Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship" the legal assistant said to me, "That's a good idea. We always do that automatically for married couples."

As "Tenants in Common" each of us would have owned one half of the property. If one of us were to die, the other would only own one half interest in the property and the other half would belong to the deceased partner's estate. In other words, a third party could potentially inherit the half share, putting the surviving partner in the position of having to either sell their half or buy out the other half owner in order to own their own home. By simply changing our deed to "Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship," should one of us die, the other automatically owns all the property.

While the people we do business with may be well intentioned, competent and do not intend to discriminate, this was a stark reminder that legal matters reflect the structure of a non-gay nuclear family and are not inclusive of our best interests. It puts us on notice that the ultimate responsibility falls on us to be knowledgeable and take the necessary precautions to protect our families in legal matters.

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POP QUIZ

8

1. The Bremerhaven Zoo In Germany tried to turn three gay male pairs of penguins straight by using:
A. Swedish seductress female penguins
B. testosterone injections C. video aversion therapy
D. psychic pet ex-gay therapists
2. The same-sex civil partnership partners of soldiers in ____ are now allowed to live together in married housing.
A. France B. Spain
C. The United Kingdom D. Norway
3. Name the PBS bunny that Sec. Of Education Margaret Spelling censored:
A. Bugs B. Buster C. Billy D. Crusader Rabbit
4. Phony White House Press Corp operative (and gay male escort) Jef Gannon's real name is: A. James Male B. Jimmy Ray Taylor C. Jim Ericman D. James Dale Guchert
5. (Melissa E's partner) Tammy Lynn Michael's new TV sitcom is called: A. Convicted B. Committed C. Clown Closet D. Covered
6. The 40th anniversary of the GLBTrights movement will be this spring in ____.
A. DC B. Philadelphia C. Boston D. NYC
7. (Questions 7 to 10 from GLSEN polls) The average grade point average (GPA) for GLBT students who cannot identify any supportive school faculty or staff is: A. 2.5 B. 2.8 C. 3.0 D. 3.1
8. The average GPA for GLBT students who can identify supportive faculty and staff is:
A. 2.5 B. 2.8 C. 3.0 D. 3.1
9. The Federal ____ requires all US schools to treat Gay Straight Alliances the same as any other student support group. A. Equal Access Act B. Federal Equality Law C. Civil Rights Act D. ENDA Law
10. ____% of GLBT students report that faculty or school staff never intervened or intervened only some of the time when present and homophobic remarks were made. A. 34.9 B. 47.1 C. 59.9 D.

MCCLV EVENTS

MCCLV's 5th Saturday of the month dance -- Saturday, April 30, Starting at 7 p.m. at the church. Smoke-free and alcohol-free!

MCCLV Garage sale: Saturday, April 9, 10:00 am to 5:00pm. at the Merchants Square Mall Garage Sale room on the first floor. Items are needed to sell; people are needed to staff the table. All money raised will be donated to UNICEF, to help their efforts to aid the children affected by the tsunami disaster. To help, contact the church at 610-709-8800.

MCC potluck: Saturday, April 30, at 6:00 pm as part of Aids Service Center's Dining For Friends fundraiser. Donations will be accepted at the potluck.

CSAP Training -- Lisa Pawlowski, LSW, will present guidelines and train MCCLV volunteers on reducing the risk of child sexual abuse happening within a ministry. All may attend. Sunday, April 17, 1 - 4 p.m. at MCCLV. The Training is sponsored by MCCLV's Children's Ministry and the MCCLV Reconciliation Team. To register, e-mail info@mcclv.org or call.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"What we're doing today is as old as the scripture: 'Love thy neighbor.' It's what Jesus said when he gave his sermon on the mount: 'Do unto others what you would have others do unto you.'"

-- Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich as he signed a new state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, in Jan.

QUOTE #2

"As for Marcavage, the self-styled street preacher from Lansdowne was hailed by some as a free-speech hero after his arrest for yelling Biblical warnings of doom at a gay street festival in Philadelphia. A judge finally threw out the case, noting that the Constitution protects all speech, even unpopular or offensive speech... It's a shame Marcavage didn't hear that lecture back in 1999, when he was a student at Temple University. Then he tried to get the university to shut down a play called 'Corpus Christi,' which portrays Jesus as gay. ...I wanted to stop this twisted tale from reaching the stage... those types of speech are not protected" under the First Amendment, Marcavage explained this week."

--From an Editorial in the Delaware County Daily Times, March 10, titled- Marcavage: Free speech - but only for

QUOTE #3

"That train [gay marriage] had already left the station. This was going to be used as a wedge issue regardless of whether or not some crazy mayor was sworn in in San Francisco or not. I can't stand my party right now. Is it political expediency? Is it accommodation that we're after? Or is it about standing up on principles and values?" -- San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom speaking at Harvard University Feb. 8.

Distelfink 4/05 "First you say you do and then you don't"

A fake reporter who is paid by the White House to tailor softball questions to the President, is exposed as a former gay male "escort."

A National Boy Scout Official who led the fight against gay people in the BSA because he said they were immoral, is charged with having and distributing kiddie porn. And what do we hear on the News?

Buster Bunny censored by Government for meeting a child's two mommies.

Conservatives have really cornered the market on hypocrisy.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.